

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 LAB-01 EUR-08 PRS-01 EA-06 L-01

/048 W

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P 121155Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8699

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

ALL EC CAPS 009

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USUN NEW YORK 2768

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1893

LIMDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG IS

SUBJ: FRG COMMENTS ON US-ILO POLICY

REF: GENEVA 1760

1. SUMMAR. FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY FRG MISSION COUNSELOR ROETGER ON SILBERMAN MISSION, THE MARCH GOVERNING BODY SESSION, WORING PARTY ON STRUCTURE, AND THE CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUGGEST THAT FRG (1) HAS MADE ITS CONCERN ABOUT KEEPING US IN ILO KNOWN TO EC-9; BUT (2) IS ENGAGED--ALONG WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS OF ILO--IN SEEING IF US WILLING TO BARGAIN ON POSITIONS SET FORTH BY AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN. END SUMMARY

2. SILBERMAN MISSION--LABATT ASKED FRG MISSION COUNSELOR
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ROETGER WHETHER UK STORY THAT FRG HAD HAD NEGATIVE REACTION

TO JAN 26 PRESENTATION OF AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN IN BONN
WAS TRUE. ROETGER SAID DEFINITELY NOT AND SUGGESTED US HAD
MISUNDERSTOOD UK AMBASSADOR. FRG HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT TAKEN
BACK BY STRONGER TONE OF SILBERMAN PRESENTATION AS COMPARED
WITH THAT IN US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO, BUT
REACTION TO SUBSTANCES OF SILBERMAN POSITION HAD BEEN AND
REMAINS POSITIVE. ROETGER THEN SAID THAT DURING JAN 27
MEETING BETWEEN BLANCHARD AND FRG LABOR MINISTER ARENDT
MEMBER OF BLANCHARD'S CABINET HAD TOLD HIM THAT ONCE US
WAS OUT OF ILO, DECISIONS WOULD BE EASIER AND EUROPEANS
WOULD HAVE GREATER VOICE. ROETGER REPLIED ILO WOULD BE
USELESS ORGANIZATION WITHOUT US AND GREATER VOICE FOR FRG
WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

3. MARCH GOVERNING BODY SESSION--ROETGER SAID HE AND OTHER
REPRESENTATIVES OF EC-NINE HAD BEEN STARTLED BY SUDDEN WAY IN
WHICH US POSITION ON 1974 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL HAD
SURFACED AT RECENT GOVERNING BODY SESSION. HE SAID FRG HAD
WORKED HARD ON NINE TO GET STATEMENT WHICH UK SPOKESMAN MADE
ON BEHALF OF NINE DURING GOVERNING BODY PLENARY SESSION ON
MARCH 5 (REFTEL). HE COMMENTED THAT UK ATTITUDE ON ISSUES
RAISED BY NEW US-ILO POLICY HAD SHIFTED DURING GOVERNING
BODY SESSION AND HAD BECOME MORE COOPERATIVE. HE ADVISED
US "NOT TO MAKE THE PRICE TOO HIGH" LEST WE ENCOURAGE
"SOME EUROPEANS" TO ACT AS IF US WITHDRAWAL WERE A
FOREGONE CONCLUSION. LABATT REPLIED US WAS ASKING FOR
COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE AND PRINCIPLES NEVER COME
CHEAP.

4. WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE--ROETGER QUESTIONED WHETHER
US COULD GET SIX CHIEF STATES OF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE TO
USE VETO POWER TO BLOCK STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN ILO. ALTHOUGH
HE SAID FRG WOULD AGREE TO USE VETO, HE DOUBTED WHETHER
ITALIANS AND FRENCH WOULD GO ALONG AND WONDERED ABOUT
CANADIANS. BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY THAT CHIEF STATES WOULD
ACT TOGETHER HE URGED GOING ALONG WITH STRATEGY OF TALKING
OUT ALL PROPOSALS ON STRUCTURE IN THE WORKING PARTY IN ORDER
TO AVOID CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED
AMAZEMENT THAT USREP (PERSONS) SEEMED TO GIVE SERIOUS
CONSIDERATION TO AGO'S "CONTINENTAL PROPOSAL" DURING
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WESTERN CONSULTATIONS WHICH PRECEDED WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE.
HE FOUND THIS "FLEXIBILITY" RATHER UNEXPECTED FROM US
BUT DESIRABLE IN ORDER TO PROLONG DISCUSSION. LABATT
ATTRIBUTED "FLEXIBILITY" TO APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING OF
INSTRUCTIONS BY USREP AND SAID THAT US POSITION WAS THAT CHIEF
STATES SHOULD ANNOUNCE ASAP INTENTION TO VETO CONSTITUTIONAL
CHANGE IN ORDER TO AVOID UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ON
PART OF THIRD WORLD ABOUT STRUCTURAL REFORM AND THAT US UNDERSTOOD

THIS WAS HARD DECISION FOR CHIEF STATES TO MAKE.

5. ILO ELECTIONS: PRESIDENCY OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE--
ROETGER SUGGESTED THAT FRG AND EC-NINE WERE EMBARRASSED AND
UNHAPPY THAT IRISH LABOR MINISTER HAD ANNOUNCED CANDIDACY
FOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM. FRG
CLEARLY PREFERS JOE MORRIS AS CANDIDATE BECAUSE, ROETGER
SAID, THEY BELIEVE HE IS STRONGER CANDIDATE AND THEY
BELIEVE HIS ELECTION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF DEFERRING
EUROPE'S TURN TO 1977 CONFERENCE. FRG WILL BE TESTING
MORRIS' INTENTIONS THROUGH CANADIAN MISSION HERE. ROETGER
ALSO NOTED THAT INDONESIAN HAD SURFACED AS LIKELY CHOICE FOR
CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF WORLD EMPLOYMENT
CONFERENCE. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, ELECTIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA01893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0232
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760368/aaaachlm.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 GENEVA 1760
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG COMMENTS ON US-ILO POLICY
TAGS: PORG, IS, US, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006